

**Eyewitness to the revolt
in Hong Kong** >>Page 20



The horrible truth about the Conservative Party
leadership contest >>Pages 5&17

**Boris Johnson—most
vicious of Tory clowns**



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**TORY CLIMATE PROMISES
ARE TOO LITTLE TOO LATE**

**WORDS
ARE NOT
ENOUGH**

**SYSTEM CHANGE NOT
CLIMATE CHANGE**

PAGES 4&5, 10&11

BRAZIL

**Huge strikes and
protests confront
Jair Bolsonaro**

MILLIONS OF workers struck in Brazil on Friday of last week against bigoted president Jair Bolsonaro's pension attacks.

Protests hit 380 towns and cities—one union said that 45 million workers struck.

More opposition to Bolsonaro's rule can crack his rotten government.

>>Page 8

JOB CUTS



**Ford workers
ready to strike
against closure**

FORD WORKERS in South Wales have shown they are ready to fight to halt the closure of the Bridgend plant.

After a series of mass meetings they voted 83 percent for a strike if necessary.

Union leaders need to turn this feeling into action.

>>Page 7

HISTORY

**The legacy of
brutal British rule
in Palestine**

THE VIOLENCE and abuses meted out under the Israeli military occupation today echo those that Palestinians suffered at the hands of the British from 1919 to 1948.

These included collective punishment, beatings, demolitions—and murder.

>>Pages 14&15



THE THINGS THEY SAY

'I myself have planted 5,000 trees'

Tory leadership hopeful Rory Stewart goes for the green vote

'I began to love this country through the soil'

Stewart continues

'Never had to fight like the rest of us to get their foot through the door'

Ex-city banker Sajid Javid attacks the 'Westminster elite'

'I have studied them and their ways'

Next PM Boris Johnson on the London Labour left

'Why bother with milkshake when you could get battery acid?'

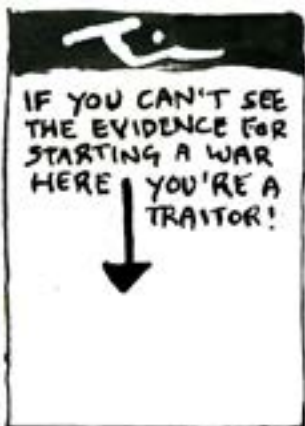
Comedian Jo Brand has ideas on how best to target hated politicians

'Incitement of violence'

Brexit Party leader Nigel Farage isn't happy

'Hate speech like this has no place in our democracy'

Tory Charlie Elphicke wades in



Traders are 'gutted' at being banned from drinking at work

TRADERS AT the London Metal Exchange (LME) are fuming at a new rule that means they can't get drunk at work.

The rule affects around 120 people in the "ring"—a circular trading floor where brokers help set global prices for copper, nickel and aluminium.

One trader declared that he was "gutted" about the change. "It's a small minority who've ruined it for the majority," whined another.

Brexit Party leader Nigel Farage declared, "Puritan rules will not make the LME more profitable." He made the most of liquid lunches during his time at the LME in the 1990s.

"I worked damned hard right up until lunchtime every day," Farage bragged.

Veteran metals trader Malcolm Freeman said, "I have seen the floor in the afternoon and there are those who overdo it."

LME boss Matthew Chamberlain said the rules are aimed at promoting a "respectful environment where everyone feels welcome and nobody feels



Traders can 'overdo it' after lunchtime drinking at the London Metal Exchange

excluded or intimidated". It's taken other measures to drag itself into the 21st century.

In May the LME appointed its first ever female chair, former banker Gay Huey Evans. And it has said that only "responsibly sourced metals" will be traded from 2022.

The exchange is desperate to move

away from damaging controversies. Last year metals trader Gerald Group hosted an event at the Playboy Club in Mayfair.

After criticism, it launched its first ever code of conduct in April this year.

This said that LME-branded events shouldn't take place at venues that might make some "market participants" uncomfortable.

● NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Police has a fresh idea to tackle domestic violence. It doesn't involve tackling the offenders. Instead, the force is handing out blunt knives to victims who have been stabbed. Cops say the knives can cut food but can't be used to stab anyone. Over 17 percent of knife crimes reported to the force in 2018/19 were related to domestic violence.



Cops' new wheeze—blunt knives

● CHUKA UMUNNA has left Change UK to join the Lib Dems. Maybe it's because he got fed up of all the name changes. Change UK wants to change its name for a second time. It started off being called The Independent Group. It now wants to be called The Independent Group for Change. If anyone still cares.

The drugs are ok... as long as it's Gove

DAILY MAIL columnist Sarah Vine has shifted to embrace a more compassionate approach.

Vine is well known for launching vicious attacks on people she doesn't like, usually women.

She once denounced food writer Jack Monroe for having a child.

According to Vine, Monroe "should have taken greater precautions" and doesn't take "responsibility for her actions".

She doesn't like women who drink either.

Or, as she calls them, "paralytic revellers causing

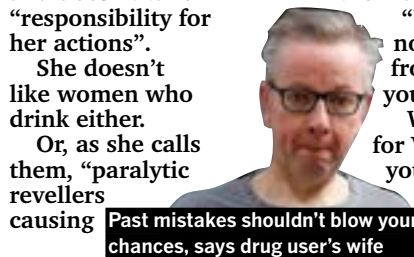
mess and mayhem" and "alcohol-sodden, helpless and hapless wrecks".

But when it comes to her drug-using husband Michael Gove, it's a different story. He apparently deserves praise for being "honest" about his drug use.

"I have always believed that past mistakes should not determine a person's future," she wrote in the Mail last week.

"What matters is not where you come from, it's where you are going."

What really matters for Vine is whether you're her wealthy husband or someone else.



Past mistakes shouldn't blow your chances, says drug user's wife

Prostitution threat of Universal Credit

THE TORIES' hated Universal Credit (UC) benefit is pushing women into prostitution.

One claimant, a 21 year old carer, gave evidence to a hearing in parliament last week.

She described how UC left her with just £52 to live on and forced her to use food banks.

"I now have to do five or six duties of sex before I can pay my bills," she told MPs on the work and pensions committee.

"Last week I did two

12-hour shifts in a row. That's a lot. I think, 'I have my fuel and food but tomorrow I must do it again to pay my rent.' "It's awful."

● A SCHOOL has appealed to BBC Children in Need to deal with the funding crisis that has followed Tory cuts.

Downshall primary school in east London turned to the BBC to deal with the cuts. It has slashed two support staff and cut reading support assistants.



Pudsey—complicit in Tory cuts?



KNOW YOUR ENEMY

Sir Philip Green
Disgraced billionaire boss

● Green last week blamed journalists for his poor public image

● He said they have made people "jealous" of him

● Green faces sexual harassment allegations

● After overseeing the downfall of Arcadia and 1,000 job cuts he said, "You can't get it all right."



GOING UP

Nigel Farage's security bill He says Jo Brand's comments mean this will rise "significantly"

William Sitwell, fired from Waitrose magazine after jokes about killing vegans, has lost his job at Saga

GOING DOWN



British Steel—32,633 jobs could be gone

MORE THAN 32,000 workers could be thrown on the dole because of the collapse of British Steel.

That's 7,000 more than was initially predicted. Research from Oxford Economics predicted bigger job losses in steel supply chains.

British Steel has 4,238 workers.

Staff working in supply chains are estimated to number 28,395—meaning that 32,633 workers are at risk.

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Resist the Trump team's desire for war with Iran

US AND British politicians, led by president Donald Trump's gang, risk a drive towards war with Iran.

Trump ordered 1,000 more US troops to the Middle East this week and the US's craven British allies promised to send marines and other special forces.

US secretary of state Mike Pompeo told CBS television last Sunday that the US was considering a "full range" of options that included possible military action.

The US and Britain are manufacturing an excuse to attack Iran if they think it necessary. It is based on lies.

Last week two oil tankers in the Gulf Of Oman were damaged around 14 nautical miles from the Iranian coast.

One was the Japanese-owned, Panama-flagged Kokuka Courageous.

The other was the Front Altair, a Norwegian-owned, Marshall Islands-flagged vessel.

The US says mines were responsible, attached to the ships by Iranian forces. But Yutaka Katada, president of the firm that owns the Kokuka Courageous tanker, told reporters that the claim the ship had been damaged by limpet mines was "false".

Flying

"The crew are saying it was hit with a flying object," Katada said. "They say something came flying toward them, then there was an explosion, then there was a hole in the vessel."

"Then some crew witnessed a second shot."

"To put a bomb on the side is not something we are thinking."

The Japanese and German government have requested stronger evidence than the grainy video released by the US Pentagon purporting to show an Iranian patrol boat removing an unexploded mine from one of the ships

But British foreign secretary Jeremy Hunt has said Iran is "almost



THE TANKER on fire (above). The pompous Pompeo (below) has created alternative facts about attack



certainly" responsible for the attacks in the Gulf of Oman.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn questioned this claim. "Britain should not fuel a military escalation that began with US withdrawal from the Iran nuclear agreement," he said.

"Without credible evidence about the tanker attacks, the government's rhetoric will only increase the threat of war."

Trump's administration is stuffed with liars.

US national security adviser John Bolton urged on the 2003 invasion of Iraq based on the false claim that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction.

And Pompeo, in setting out what

he said were recent examples of Iranian terror attacks, gave the example of a car bomb on 31 May in Kabul, Afghanistan, as a US convoy was passing. But the Taliban claimed responsibility for that.

This is a hugely dangerous situation which might spark a war that could affect millions of people.

Some elements of the US ruling class, scarred by Iraq, realise the gamble such a war represents. But they cannot be relied on to halt it.

The drive to war must be opposed.

What's your story?
Email with your ideas
reports@socialistworker.co.uk

Tonkin incident shows that the US has been here before

THE US has form in manipulating incidents at sea to start wars.

US destroyers were allegedly attacked by North Vietnamese patrol boats in the Tonkin Gulf off North Vietnam in August 1964.

The incident was used by president Lyndon Johnson to get congressional authority to escalate the war.

But it later emerged that any fighting that occurred was provoked by the Americans, who had been mounting clandestine naval operations against North Vietnam for years.



Ship at the centre of the Tonkin incident

STAND UP TO RACISM

Oppose Farage and US racists

STAND UP To Racism planned a protest on Thursday this week as Brexit Party leader Nigel Farage was set to appear with the far right. He was set to speak alongside Charlie Kirk, founder of Turning Point USA.

Kirk is hoping to raise money for the British offshoot, Turning Point UK.

The Southern Poverty Law Centre has documented Turning Point USA's links to white supremacists.

Join the protest, Thu 20 June, 6pm, One Great George St, London SW1P 3AA

Protest against attack in Kent

AROUND 300 people marched against racism in Canterbury, Kent, last week.

The event followed an attack that has left a 17 year old student fighting for his life in hospital.

The demonstration was organised by Canterbury and Whitstable Labour Party and supported by a number of organisations. Protesters marched to where the attack took place chanting, "Say it loud, say it clear—don't give in to racist fear."

Steve Wilkins

SUTR meetings get underway

STAND UP To Racism regional conferences are scheduled for Sunday in Manchester and Sheffield.

Speakers include leading campaigners, trade unionists, MPs, MEPs and councillors.

For details go to Stand Up To Racism on Facebook.

Socialist Worker

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IN THIS WEEK

1969

SDS implodes at national meeting

THE radical US student group Students for a Democratic Society broke up at its last conference, 50 years ago this week.

Rival factions aligned themselves politically with opposing international Communist parties.



School strikers hit streets once again

by SARAH BATES

SCHOOL STUDENT strikers were preparing for their fifth strike for the climate on Friday of this week. They remain determined in the face of threats from school bosses.

“They can’t put all of us in detention,” Sheffield striker Patrick Wakefield told Socialist Worker. “We’ve learned if they want to give us all detention, they physically don’t have the rooms to do it.”

Fourteen year old Patrick is part of a movement demanding that adults take the threat of climate catastrophe seriously—and take action over it. “We don’t have a say in what our lives are going to look like in ten or 15 years,” said Patrick. “It feels like we don’t have a voice.”

But the movement over climate change has given confidence to people. It has seen thousands of teenagers and younger students drawn into political activity for the first time.

And along with action from Extinction Rebellion (see right), it has pushed the climate crisis to the top of the political and media agenda.

“Six months ago I did feel pretty helpless,” explained Patrick. “I knew about climate change, I knew it would affect us. But the strikes have raised our sights.”

The next globally coordinated school strike is set to be 20 September. Climate strike leaders issuing a call for workers to join them in a week of action.

In Britain,



the action has been coordinated by the UK Schools Climate Network (UKSCN).

Patrick is part of the UKSCN trade union outreach group and has spoken at trade union branches to raise support for September’s action.

He said action by workers could be a critical element of the walkouts. “While our protests are civil disruption, there is no real economic disruption” he said.

“There’s no incentive to make the bosses, or the 1 percent who control production, listen. They control how much carbon they emit, but a general strike would hurt those at the top.”

Organised

Student strikers are getting organised in cities and coordinating action from different schools. Patrick has been part of organising mass leafletting and dropping a banner declaring “youth strike for the climate” across one of Sheffield’s main roads.

He said so many are pulled into this movement because their futures are on the line.

“People are angry because our futures are not being decided by us but by the actions of Barclays, BP, and oil companies,” he said.

The school climate strikes have been a breath of fresh air. Now trade unionists need to start thinking seriously about how they can bring people out on a climate strike in September.

Solidarity for student strikers cannot remain at the level of passive “endorsement” and “support”. Building for action by workers in September has to be the next step.

Search “youth strike for climate” on Facebook for details of strikes



PROTEST IN Edinburgh on Monday

Activists block roads to kick off Edinburgh week of climate action

by ALISTAIR FARROW in Edinburgh

EXTINCTION Rebellion (XR) activists blocked traffic in Edinburgh on Monday, causing disruption to businesses. Five activists glued themselves to the road.

The protests were part of a week of events centred on a camp outside the Scottish Parliament building, set up by activists on Sunday.

Events

Monday was the main day of events as the Scottish Parliament was set to debate its Climate Change Bill the next day.

Central to the Bill is making the Scottish economy carbon neutral by 2045.

XR has demanded this be brought forward to 2025. It points to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recommendation that global temperatures must not rise more than 1.5 degrees centigrade above pre-industrial levels. The IPCC puts the deadline for this at 2030.

And, as activist Scott pointed out, even this is “likely to be



a conservative estimate”. The Scottish Parliament bill is based on recommendations from the Committee for Climate Change, which advises the British parliament.

XR activist Lauren told Socialist Worker that this “started from what was acceptable to the Tories and what could be sold to big business”.

“It should have started with considering what we need to do to stop extinction,” she said. “It concentrates on these miraculous ‘technofixes’ to the crisis.

“But the majority remain untested.” Earlier on Monday some 200 people marched from Edinburgh

Castle down the main Royal Mile street to the Scottish Parliament building in Holyrood.

Chants of, “Tory, Labour, SNP—got to keep it fossil free!” echoed around the city’s old town, with activists blocking junctions briefly as they went.

And on the Tuesday morning activists glued themselves to the road outside the Scottish Parliament.

Arrested

Although everyone is encouraged to join XR actions, there is a focus on people getting arrested.

But limitations on legal aid means that fewer people may feel comfortable volunteering as “arrestable” as legal fees rise above £1,000 on top of fines.

And XR’s strategy of maximum disruption has provoked increasing hostility from the state.

Activists are considering what action must be taken if the Scottish Parliament refuses to adopt the 2025 carbon neutrality target.

“In that case we need to have escalation,” argued protester Daniel. “The amount and frequency of action should increase. We need to up the ante.”

Anti fracking



UP TO 100 anti-fracking activists from across England protested outside a planning inquiry in Rotherham on Tuesday of last week. They gathered to support

campaigners from Woodsetts in South Yorkshire, who are fighting petrochemical giant Ineos’s plans to explore for shale next to their village.

Scottish government must do more on climate

PROTESTS IN Scotland come as the Scottish government dithers on dealing with climate change.

Scottish climate change minister Roseanna Cunningham has set the date of a planned implementation of a zero carbon economy at 2045.

Extinction Rebellion (XR) is calling for the date to be moved forward to 2025 to stop catastrophic climate change.

Climate activist Sharon joined protests in Edinburgh on Sunday and explained why the situation is so urgent.

“The message is simple—we either do something now, or we lose everything,” she said. “The stakes could not be higher.”

But the scale



of the action over climate change has made Sharon more optimistic.

“Something has grabbed people big time on a worldwide basis,” she said. “It’s renewed my energy.

Hopeful

“I remain hopeful—the more pressure and action we can bring to bear, the more our demands become achievable.

“I’ve been trying to convince people for years, but now I think we need to take

more radical action. I’m willing to risk my job, to get the sack, and I do not take that lightly.”

Vincent from Glasgow added, “I was on some of the London protests and today has the same sort of energy.

“It doesn’t matter where you’re from or what you dress like—you are welcome here.”

He also argued that new forms of protesting and activities are important “to keep the interest level high”.

XR activist Jim said, “Governments can be slow and cautious things.

“History shows us that governments only allow radical change when people rise up and demand it.”

What is a Citizens’ Assembly?

THE IDEA of a Citizens Assembly is often referenced in XR meetings and on demonstrations.

The third of XR’s three central demands is that “the government must create and be led by the decisions of a Citizens’ Assembly on climate and ecological justice”.

XR activist Jim said an assembly could be “like jury duty—a random selection of people to represent Scotland”.

“They wouldn’t need to be experts, they would have access to experts and unbiased

opinions,” he said.

Other activists had different ideas. Eva told Socialist Worker that the key to a successful Citizens Assembly is “legitimacy”.

“Ideally the government would set them up as this confers legitimacy,” she said.

Process

“Once the government has agreed it will happen, the process is taken over by external organisations. After this an advisory group would be set up to determine what the assembly would look

like.” Eva said that “oil and gas companies might be a part” of this.

“It’s unavoidable there will be people we don’t agree with giving expert advice,” she said, arguing that XR doesn’t “get to determine what the group looks like—then it would lack legitimacy”.

Relying on the state and corporations to set up a body that would be a challenge to their power is fatal. And there are limits to how far the state will challenge the interests of fossil fuel bosses.

Socialist Worker WHAT WE THINK

TORY HYPOCRITES DECRY THE DAMAGE THEY CAUSED

THE TORIES have conveniently discovered their social conscience as the party leadership election hots up.

Theresa May is desperate to avoid being remembered for her failures over Brexit. So last week she pushed for Britain to set a goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2050—although that’s 25 years later than most campaigners want.

She has promised more support for people with mental distress and wants a £27 billion boost to education spending.

Tories hoping to succeed May are also making an effort to look good.

Most candidates joined a Channel 4 TV debate on Sunday. Frontrunner Boris Johnson (see page 17) didn’t show up.

But the rest passionately described all the things they’d love to do if only they were given the chance. If only, say, they had been in government for the past nine years.

So former education secretary and now environment secretary Michael Gove said children and the environment are his top priority.

Dominic Raab said he wanted

to improve education, as did home secretary Sajid Javid. After years of denying that the Tories had cut education funding Javid admitted, “We have cut back too much.”

On Monday Javid said he would offer a new life to those “fleeing conflict and persecution”.

This is the man who previously rushed to Dover to declare that a few hundred refugees crossing the channel was “deeply concerning”.

He told refugees that if they come to Britain “we will do everything we can to make sure that you are not successful”.

Foreign secretary Jeremy Hunt and Rory Stewart said adult social care is a key priority. And Hunt claimed that “all” Tories want to

“There’s no good Tory winner. How do we organise to push the lot of them out?”

GROUND HEATHROW PLAN

TORY LEADERSHIP hopeful Boris Johnson famously said he would “lie down in front of those bulldozers and stop the construction” of Heathrow airport’s third runway. He should get ready for action.

On 1 May MPs approved a motion declaring a climate emergency. On Tuesday this week Heathrow announced it intends to have built a third runway by 2026.

If this goes ahead it will have massive environmental effects. It will be another signal that for capitalism

and its supporters it is still “business as usual”, despite public pledges of action on climate change.

In June last year MPs backed Heathrow’s £14 billion expansion by 415 votes to 119.

Although the Labour Party’s position was to oppose, it gave its MPs a free vote. Expansion was supported by 119 Labour MPs—just 96 voted against.

This was partly helped along by the support for expansion from the Unite, Community and GMB unions, along with the TUC. The

Scottish National Party abstained.

As tempting as the thought of Johnson getting flattened may be, it is unlikely he will put his money where his mouth is.

Socialists, climate campaigners and trade unionists should put the brakes on Heathrow expansion.

It’s another reason to join the students’ and workers’ strikes in September.

And union leaders should argue for investment in green jobs, not push for more that are tied to a system that threatens us all.



School strikers in London

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ANALYSIS

CHARLIE KIMBER



Morsi's death shows need for revolution

THE DEATH of former president Mohammed Morsi on Monday shone a light on the brutal reality of the Egyptian counter-revolution.

Morsi collapsed during a court session and died, almost six years after he was forced from power in a bloody coup.

His death was entirely predictable, a murder actively encouraged by the regime of Abdel Fattah el-Sisi and its Western allies.

Morsi was elected in 2012 in the country's first ever free presidential election. It came some 16 months after the revolution that ended the rule of Hosni Mubarak. The dictator had ruled for 30 years with the backing of the US and Britain.

That inspiring revolution, based on mass strikes and enormous street protests, was the key event of 2011's revolts across most of the Arab world. It could have gone further, opening the road to new forms of democracy and a push for socialism.

Instead it was channelled into "safe" parliamentary elections cut off from genuine control of the economy and society.

Morsi stood for the Muslim Brotherhood and in office he brought about some minor reforms. They were enough to enrage the generals and the establishment of torturers and jailers.

But he did far too little to meet the demands of a risen population who wanted to see far-reaching changes.

As world economic crisis hit Morsi couldn't keep his promises to workers and the poor without encouraging deeper revolutionary processes—which he refused to do.

Despite his rhetoric in support of the Palestinians, he spent more effort reining in Hamas than in opening the Rafah crossing between Egypt and Gaza.

Instead he became more authoritarian, granting himself sweeping powers while still implementing austerity. This sparked protests across Egypt.

As Morsi's popularity diminished, the military decided to act. The army dismissed the elected government and handed power to Sisi who imposed a regime of ferocious repression.

Camps

Morsi's supporters set up protest camps in the streets. They were cleared in what was described by Human Rights Watch as "one of the world's largest killings of demonstrators in a single day in recent history".

At least 1,150 people were killed in five separate incidents when security forces opened fire on protesters.

The coup was welcomed by all the "democratic" West, in particular Tony Blair. He was joined by Syria's Bashar al-Assad, the Israeli military, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. They immediately offered £10 billion assistance.

Scandalously, sections of the left joined in the praise for "secular" action against "Islamic tyranny".

Along with tens of thousands of other members of his Muslim Brotherhood, Morsi was taken to prison. He was sentenced to death—overturned on appeal—and multiple prison terms based on charges.

While in prison he was denied medication for his diabetes, high blood pressure and liver disease. He was kept in solitary confinement for 23 hours a day and allowed only the most limited visits.

A human rights group said he was periodically falling into diabetic coma, suffering from untreated abscesses in his jaws, neck injuries from sleeping on a cement floor, and losing kidney and liver function due to malnutrition.

The US and Britain were unmoved by Morsi's treatment, the mass jailing and torture or the handing down of thousands of death sentences. The hangman of Cairo was a reliable friend in an important part of the world. As such he was welcome in Downing Street, the White House and the French presidential palace.

Those taking part in the uprisings in Algeria and Sudan are far more sceptical about the army and its role than many people were in 2011. But, as Morsi's life and death have shown, it is not enough to wish away the military or make minor adjustments in society after a dictator falls.

Instead there must be no deals with the military, and instead revolution in every sphere of life.



TRADE UNIOINSTS on the march to demand justice over Grenfell last Saturday

PICTURES: GUY SMALLMAN

Thousands join protests to demand justice for Grenfell

by ALISTAIR FARROW

UP TO a thousand people marched last Saturday to demand justice for the victims of the Grenfell Tower fire.

It followed a silent walk of thousands on Friday night to commemorate the 72 people who died on 14 June 2017.

Two years since the fire, some of those displaced are still living in hotels. Tens of thousands are still living in unsafe buildings. Protesters called for the rehousing of all those displaced by the fire and quick work to make unsafe homes safe.

Saturday's protest, organised by the Justice4Grenfell campaign group, congregated outside Downing Street.

Progress

Moyra Samuels from Justice4Grenfell told Socialist Worker, "There has been slow progress in anything that looks like real change or justice."

"The only way to shift the government is through a social movement that involves everyone in this country."

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn attended Friday's silent walk and sent a message of solidarity to protesters on Saturday. "We will not stand by while working class people live in fear for their own lives," he said.

"Those responsible have still not been held to

account."

People travelled from across Britain to attend Saturday's protest.

Many union banners were prominent, including several from the FBU, Hackney NUT, London Met Union, Dundee TUC, Eastern Unite and Greenwich and Bexley TUC.

There were also banners from Islington North Labour Party and housing campaigns Homes for All and Southwark Hands Off Our Homes.

Firefighter Sean from Humberside pointed out the connections between the Grenfell fight for justice and attacks on ordinary people.

BACK STORY

Last weekend marked two years since the Grenfell Tower fire

● At least 72 people died as a result of the west London blaze

● Some of those who were displaced by the fire are still living in hotels

● Tens of thousands of other people still live in unsafe buildings

● Thousands joined a silent walk to remember the victims of the fire—and to demand justice

"Everyone's under pressure from the Tories at the moment," he said. "They've cut the fire service by about 50 percent since 2010."

"We've seen fire inspectors cut savagely—there are about half the amount of inspectors there used to be."

Safety

These cuts open the door to the privatised, deregulated fire safety industry to step in and fill the gap.

That includes figures such as Carl Stokes, the inspector who signed the Grenfell Tower off as safe.

Speakers at the protest included Nour-eddine Aboudihaj from the Grenfell Trust bereaved group.

"Sometimes words fail me," he said. "I'm very sad at the catalogue of failures people have been subjected to."

"The government has failed them, the local authority has failed them."

"The only people who have supported them are the local community and people like you."

Jim Malone from Dundee TUC and Labour Party told Socialist Worker, "Those that caused this atrocity need to be held to account, including our likely next prime minister Boris Johnson."

"He presided over savage cuts to the cuts to the London Fire Brigade."

"He needs to be in the crosshairs of working class people everywhere."

System failure slammed

MANY OF those on the silent walk slammed the system. Karim from Grenfell United told the crowd, "Those responsible for ruining our lives walk free like nothing has happened."

"Two years on and we're still neglected and abandoned by the government."

"The system was made this way—to keep the rich up there and the poor down here."

Rapper Akala said, "This tragedy

was not an accident. "It was the product of a philosophy that says some lives have value and some don't."

Rapper Lowkey pledged, "We will not betray the dead. We will not be satisfied with platitudes."

The silent marches are a powerful way of remembering the dead.

There must also be a political response that calls for those responsible to be held to account.



On the silent walk

Ford workers' strike vote to stop a jobs massacre

Workers at Ford's Bridgend plant have voted to support strikes to stop job cuts. Now there must be a united fight to stop the attacks everywhere, writes **Charlie Kimber**

FORD WORKERS in South Wales have shown they are ready to fight to halt the closure of the Bridgend plant.

The Unite union held a series of mass meetings with the Bridgend workforce last week. A consultative ballot took place after the meetings and 83 percent of those who voted said they were prepared to strike if necessary to save the plant.

Unite Wales regional secretary Peter Hughes said, "The consultative ballot clearly demonstrates that the workforce are not prepared to lie down and quietly accept their fate.

"They are not prepared to let Ford deliver an act of unprecedented industrial sabotage, the ramifications of which would be devastation of the Bridgend area and the Welsh automotive supply chain."

Ford intends to close the plant by September 2020, slashing over 1,500 jobs directly and thousands more among suppliers.

Bridgend should move quickly to a formal strike ballot.

Strikes at a time of government crisis can increase the pressure for nationalisation.

Market

If the market for cars is collapsing, why can't Ford workers build the next generation of sustainable public transport?

The fight also needs to be spread nationally and internationally.

Ford's other two main production plants at Dagenham in east London and Halewood on Merseyside and the large research facility in Dunton, Essex, need to be part of the fightback.

Bosses have played plants off against each other to drive down wages and force through worse terms and conditions.

The battle at Bridgend has to be coordinated with resistance in Germany, where the firm has announced it plans to cut "more than 5,000 jobs" as part of a major

BACK STORY

Ford plans to slash thousands of jobs across the world

- It wants to cut over 5,000 in Germany and others in Russia

- In Bridgend, South Wales, workers have voted in support of strikes to save the Ford plant there

- Ford cuts threaten over 1,500 jobs directly in Bridgend and thousands more among suppliers

- Ford workers in Britain should unite with those elsewhere to stop the bosses' attacks

restructuring to boost profitability. This is a huge attack on the workforce in Cologne, Aachen and Saarlouis.

Jobs in Russia are also going. Ford's passenger vehicle production in Russia will cease by the end of this month following the closure of its car plants in Naberezhnye Chelny and Vsevolozhsk near Saint Petersburg, and an engine plant in Elabug.

These cuts demonstrate that the Bridgend closure is not about Brexit—it's about money for the company and its shareholders.

The IG Metall union that organises German Ford workers plans a major demonstration on 29 June in Berlin.

It will call for the securing of jobs through a "restructuring of industry—socially, ecologically and democratically".

British Ford workers should be there arguing for joint action.

Resistance at Ford could encourage others to resist mass job losses.

Analysis by the GMB union last week showed that the number of jobs at risk from the collapse of British Steel is higher than previously thought.

A fightback is urgent, and everyone should back it.



WORKERS AT Ford Bridgend held mass meetings last Friday

PICTURE: @PETEHUGHESUNITE ON TWITTER

Ballot begins to defend UCU union rep Dave Muritu from victimisation

WORKERS AT Sandwell College will begin a strike ballot this week in the campaign to defend sacked UCU union rep Dave Muritu.

Bosses sacked Dave after he wrote the word "racist" on a Prevent poster. Prevent is a racist government strategy that encourages institutions to treat all Muslims as potential terrorists.

Dave told Socialist Worker that the sacking followed a number of victories won by the union branch at the college.

Nearly 7,000 people have signed a petition demanding Dave's reinstatement.

A national protest was set to take place in West Bromwich on Saturday of this week.

"We need people to keep sending messages of support and signing the petition," said Dave.

Liz Lawrence, UCU past president, agreed. "We need to get 15,000, 20,000 signatures," she told a rally to defend Dave earlier this month. "And it's even more important we have industrial action.

"We've been making some gains in further education and that's upsetting the employers. Dave may not be the only one who gets put in the frame.

"The best way of protecting people is taking industrial action."



Dave Muritu

Dave is right to oppose Prevent, which is opposed by the UCU nationally along with several other trade unions.

As Dave told the rally, "Prevent has no place in our classrooms. It turns us into spies. It means that Muslims are marginalised."

He also stressed that the fight at Sandwell matters for workers everywhere. "We have stood up for ourselves," he said. "We are a force to be reckoned with.

"If they take me out, they may take more people out and crush this branch. We're not going to let that happen."

A big meeting of Sandwell College UCU branch re-elected Dave as their branch secretary last week. Dave said it was a "clear message to management that the branch will not stand for victimisation".

Shadow education secretary Angela Rayner and shadow labour minister Laura Pidcock have also sent solidarity messages with the campaign. UCU acting general secretary Paul Cottrell said the college's treatment of Dave was "heavy-handed" and "completely out of line.

By the college's own admission, Dave's actions didn't bring the college into disrepute, so it appears that he is being singled out for his trade union activities," he said.

The ballot will begin on Friday of this week and ends on 12 July.

Sadie Robinson

- Protest to demand the reinstatement of Dave Muritu—Sat 22 June, assemble 12.30pm, West Bromwich campus of Sandwell College, Spon Lane, West Bromwich B70 6AW

- Sign the petition to support Dave at bit.ly/DaveMuritu

- Send messages of support to UCU branch chair Dom at dharmindersinghchuhan@hotmail.com

- Send messages of protest to college principal Graham Pennington at graham.pennington@sandwell.ac.uk

Setback in Sudan after workers stage a powerful general strike

by CHARLIE KIMBER

SUDAN'S REVOLT suffered a setback last week as opposition leaders called off a general strike—despite its huge success. But there are also reports of soldiers refusing to attack protesters.

The opposition coordinating group the Alliance for Freedom and Change (AFC) ended the strike and civil disobedience campaign on Wednesday of last week.

Yet reports from the Sudanese Professionals Association (SPA), a group at the centre of the revolt, showed it won massive support.

It detailed workers' participation in the strike over three days.

Nearly 100 percent of rail workers, around 85 percent in other public transport and 90 percent in the education sector joined it.

The strike also involved 90 percent of aviation workers, 85 percent in shipping and sea freight, 80 percent in oil and gas, 90 percent in telecoms, 98 percent in White Nile sugar and 80 percent in Halfa sugar.

The SPA added, "Main roads in Khartoum and Greater Khartoum have been mostly left vacant with minimal activity. Similar sights have been reported in roads in other main cities across Sudan."

Campaign

Nevertheless the AFC said it would suspend the campaign and seek to resume negotiations with the military.

The move enraged some people, who asked on the SAP Facebook page why the strike was called off without clear gains.

Talks have not reopened. A leading member of Sudan's ruling Transitional Military Council (TMC) told the Financial Times newspaper that the army will rule the country until elections—which it will control—are held.

The military's apparently democratic call for early elections is a sham because they will be allowed to have only one result—support for the generals.

Lieutenant General Salah Abdel Khalig said civilian government could happen

BACK STORY

A general strike in Sudan last week was a huge success

- Big numbers of workers joined it across all industries
- But organisers called it off for talks—enraging some people
- The military is determined to keep control in Sudan as revolt continues
- But there are reports that some troops have refused to fire on demonstrators

only when "national security" had been guaranteed.

Khalig added that he felt the opposition "behave like kids—they are not behaving like adult politicians".

The potential for change remains huge if the strike is restarted and there is a move away from talks to creating alternative sources of power. These could grow from the strike committees that were formed during the general strike.

There are reports that dozens of Sudanese police and military officers have been arrested because they refused orders to use violence against protesters.

But mutinies will happen widely only if there is determined and resolute opposition to the military.

An opposition that hesitates and compromises will not encourage soldiers to risk their lives in revolt.

A further danger is that the US is trying to shape the outcome in Sudan.

Top US officials have met TMC chief General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan.

They also consulted diplomats from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt. These states back the generals' murderous assaults.

The fight for change in Sudan is threatened by the ruthless military, the influence of outside powers and the limited scale of change envisaged by some in the AFC.

People across the world are watching Sudan. Solidarity protests last weekend included one of up to 1,000 people in London.

It is urgent to fight for a return to strikes and street mobilisations, not talks with the military butchers.

Brazil

Millions join walkouts against Bolsonaro

MILLIONS OF workers struck in Brazil on Friday of last week against bigoted president Jair Bolsonaro's pension reforms.

There were protests in some 380 towns and cities across the country. Strikers and their supporters blocked roads in many of them.

Burning barriers were erected in some places and workers picketed highway toll booths as well as other workplaces.

Police used stun grenades on protesters in Rio de Janeiro.

The public transport system was particularly badly hit by the walkouts in many cities.

According to the CUT trade union some 45 million workers took part in the strike.

Some workplaces around Sao Paulo saw 98 percent of the workforce walk out.

Bolsonaro's pension "reforms" are based on some £188 billion in cuts to public spending.

Increase

Workers are expected to pay for them through an increase in the retirement age to 65 for men and 62 for women and an increase in contributions.

To receive their full pension entitlement workers would have to work for 40 years.

And to be entitled to any pension at all they would have to work a minimum of 20 years.

Teacher Marcio Pereira de Souza said the changes will benefit "the big banks and companies, but not the workers".

Many of the people who came out had mobilised previously for the protests against the Bolsonaro government's savage education cuts.

A strike on 15 May followed by a mobilisation by the national union of students on 30 May has put students and education workers at the forefront of a movement against him.

The strike comes as Bolsonaro is under increasing pressure. His son is being investigated



HUGE PROTESTS took place across Brazil

for taking potentially corrupt payments along with his former driver.

Bolsonaro's supporters tried to mobilise in his defence on 26 May, but they received limited support. And he has the lowest approval rating of any sitting president.

Brazil's parliament, Congress, is expected to vote on the pension changes in the next few weeks.

The splits inside the ruling class

were emphasised last Sunday as Joaquim Levy, the head of Brazil's powerful state development bank, quit his post. This came after Bolsonaro said he had a "price on his head".

Levy is the fourth senior official to leave since Bolsonaro's inauguration in January.

More militant opposition to his rule can crack his rotten, racist government.

Alistair Farrow



A protest in Khartoum last week

Sacked for being an anti-racist

THE VICTIMISATION of Dave Muritu is an example of the insidious impact of Prevent in the workplace.

I was also bullied and victimised from my workplace after committing two acts that were abhorrent to the logic of Prevent.

My first was to distribute official trade union anti-racist literature to union members.

I was told, "This is a tolerant school and your action stops staff with different views from expressing them."

I asked, "You are banning me from distributing anti-racist materials so that racists can express their views?"

The head replied, "Yes." I was then disciplined for telling a workmate that I believed that Prevent was racist. Apparently this "brought the school into disrepute".

The "British values" imposed in many workplaces and schools are part of Prevent.

Tolerance is deemed a British value—essentially British, white and Christian. This implies that all other national groups, cultures and religions are intolerant.

Intolerance is "extreme" and therefore "extremist," and extremists are "terrorists". The conclusion is that to challenge Prevent is to potentially lend support to "terrorism".

Prevent is increasingly being used to silence anti-racists and activists.

The importance of supporting Dave Muritu and challenging Prevent is paramount.

Chris Ayton
East London



ILLUSTRATION: TIM SANDERS

Homophobic attacks show need for militant resistance

AFTER READING your timely article on increases in LGBT+ attacks, I googled Pride in London (PiL) to find out how I might raise my voice against these atrocities.

Shockingly, the three "top stories" concerned best design products celebrating Pride—featuring trainers, clothing, a shaving set and "love seat". There was a gin bottle with a rainbow label, and a pop-up merchandise shop by retail billionaire Mary Portas, which claims to mark 50 years since the Stonewall uprising.

What planet do these people live on? Perhaps PiL executives travel by cab, live in gated communities and use private healthcare.

Not so the rest of us.

Although they rely on our

support, commercialised Prides are still riding on the crest of the gay marriage wave.

They have nothing effective to offer millions of working class LGBT+ people facing direct threats in our daily lives, austerity and the rise of the far right.

We should insist that this year's Prides be massive, furious expressions of defiance and outrage against bigotry and any rollback of LGBT+ rights.

They should be open displays of anti-fascist resistance.

Instead of pushing rainbow trainers, sponsors' cash should pay for huge posters on hoardings displaying a rainbow fist against oppression.

Groups such as Stand Up To

Racism, Unite Against Fascism, LGBT Against Islamophobia, SEEDS and Lesbians and Gays Support the Migrants should be invited to lead the parades.

I also think it's time we took the initiative at grassroots level.

We could start by having an open statement for everyone to sign defending LGBT+ lives and calling for respect and unity.

This statement can be posted up in every school, college, shop, workplace, bus, train, GP surgery, hospital and library.

We need to bring respect and unity out onto the streets every day of the year—starting with this year's Pride marches.

Nicola Field
South London

How we pushed Brexit Party back in Blackburn

THE POTENTIAL power of an alliance between unions and community groups was illustrated during the European elections.

Blackburn Trades Union Council launched an anti-racist campaign.

There followed a series of Stand Up To Racism events. Local councillors and some Asian activist groups organised the hanging of posters and banners at road junctions and a social media blitz.

Teams explained the importance of an anti-racist vote.

The Brexit Party received 31 percent and Labour 22 percent across the North West. But in Blackburn & Darwen Labour took 44 percent with the Brexit Party on 26 percent.

The Brexit Party is far from immune to mass anti-racist campaigning.

Asif Mahmoud, Adnan Hussain,
John Murphy, Vikki Dougdale
Blackburn

Protesters can win in Hong Kong

THE RESISTANCE to extradition to China has brought protests back to the centre in Hong Kong and China.

An important difference between the 2014 Umbrella Movement and the present campaign is that the former directed all its fire at Beijing.

This time, the rulers of Hong Kong can reverse the



Mass protests have hit Hong Kong

bill. In 22 years, there has not been a single extradition to China from Hong Kong and there is no "loophole" that needs closing.

One million protesters is

one sixth of Hong Kong's residents.

There is every chance that the extradition bill can be defeated.

Lawrence Wong
South London

Just a thought...

Call for action on the climate

THE UNION reps at the TUC should lobby the Labour Party to get climate change in the educational system (We should strike to save the planet, 12 June).

And get the young reps out speaking to the kids at schools on the importance of the unions.

Paddy Hanrahan
On Facebook

Tories cosy up to the rich

INEQUALITY in this country is one of the highest in the developed world.

But never mind that, the Tory leadership candidates propose to pamper the prosperous and persecute the poor.

Brian Eggleston
On Facebook

● MORE AND more like Trumpland every day—the Tory Holy Grail.

Jill Chapman
On Facebook

● IT'S THE class system we should attack. Social cleansing going on everywhere.

No social houses getting built anywhere. Rob the fuckers.

Paul Kersey
On Facebook

Old and lonely after cutbacks

THE TORIES seek to blame the BBC for cuts to free TV licences for over-75s.

But they are also looking at cutting the winter fuel allowance for pensioners and raising the eligibility age of the English bus pass from 65 to 70.

None of this helps the loneliness and isolation of people.

John Appleyard
West Yorkshire

Victims of fire need a Palace

GRENFELL TOWER, now a burnt-out wreck, was in North Kensington—working class, neglected, overcrowded. The so-called "Royal Borough" ignores the poor.

The tragic inhabitants of Grenfell Tower should be rehoused in Kensington Palace, which currently contains the stuck-up royal parasites of the House of Windsor.

Zekria Ibrahim
West London

AN ACTIVIST'S GUIDE TO SAVING THE WORLD

A new handbook by Extinction Rebellion reveals the terrifying future we could face as a result of climate chaos—but it also offers ideas and hope to transform society, says Sarah Bates



IT'S NOW nine months since Extinction Rebellion (XR) first declared the beginning of a rebellion to save our planet from devastating climate change.

In that period, tens of thousands of people have flooded onto the streets to stage occupations demanding a change to “business as usual”.

There've been countless other smaller demonstrations, and an endless stream of protesters ready to die-in, lock-on or glue themselves to gates, windows and trains.

Activists have poured into local XR groups inspired by radical demands.

A new anthology written by XR activists, economists, authors and climate scientists looks at the politics and strategy of the movement.

This Is Not A Drill promises to be a “book that will compel you to join the rebellion in whatever way that means to you”.

It combines two central pillars of XR's appeal.

The first half deals with the specifics of climate breakdown.

The second has activists reflecting on their experience, alongside advice on how to organise an occupation, block a road and so on.

Roger Hallam, an XR founder, sets out the organisations’ “civil resistance model” which informs their strategy.

He argues for action of 50,000 people to create “the social tension and the public drama which are vital to create change”.

And Ronan McNern from XR's media team agrees—he said that “to achieve social change the active and sustained participation of just 3.5 percent of the population is needed. It is that 3.5 percent of the population that we want to engage.”

Their arguments help explain why the “International Rebellion”—ten days occupying five of London's busiest areas—took the shape it did.

Over 1,000 people got arrested, and the action pushed climate change right to the top of the news and political agenda.

The British government became the first country in the world to declare a “climate emergency” shortly afterwards.

“Breaking the rules gets the attention and shows the public and the elite that you are serious and unafraid” explains Hallam.

“It creates the necessary material disruption and economic cost which forces the elites to sit up and take notice.”

Mass arrests, disruption and other acts of civil disobedience are the central plank of XR activity. One activist, Cathy Eastburn, describes how she felt “relieved” when Extinction Rebellion came along.

“I wasn't sure whether non-violent



Extinction Rebellion have put thousands on the streets

direct action would have any impact, but it seemed the only thing I could do.”

Cathy was one of three activists who glued themselves to a DLR train in east London during the International Rebellion. But unlike hundreds of other arrestees, Cathy was denied bail and sent to prison.

She describes “the shock as physical. I was terrified.”



THE relationship between XR and the police has been criticised by the left and the right.

Some newspapers blasted the Met police for being too soft on protesters. Meanwhile, other environmental campaigners are highly critical of XR's analysis of the law.

A chapter written by XR's legal team attempts to addresses these arguments head on. It opens with a statement that the police are “structurally racist, unjust and violent, particularly towards oppressed groups.”

Yet a few short paragraphs later it is advising protesters to “approach security forces with determination and compassion in mind—offer them flowers and speak of the joint efforts needed to protect life on this planet. There's a fundamental disconnect

between XR's acceptance of the police as racist and unjust—yet open to accepting bouquets of flowers and speeches about climate change.

Jay Griffiths is one activist who chose to be arrested during the International Rebellion.

She said that making that decision meant that “the sting is gone. So is the fear, because the way to stop being scared of something is to actively attempt it.”

Far away from the prison cells of London, the reality of climate change is brought to life in chapters from environmental campaigners from poorer countries.

A powerful interview with Kamla

Joshi and Bhuvan Chand Joshi, farmers in the Almora district of the Indian Himalayas, shows how their daily lives are already devastated.

Heavier monsoons and increasingly unpredictable extreme weather means they are unable to farm as generations have done before.

A harvest produces a third of what it had before, as wild animals increasingly attack their land and diseases rip through the region.

“We are not able to prepare much for this,” they said.

“We don't have a good way of protecting ourselves from the weather. There is no way to save our crops, nor do have the resources.”

Climate change is often something abstract for the inhabitants of rich countries. But not for us. For us, it's a reality. A reality that comes from elsewhere. We are witnesses of the consequences without being able to act on the causes. Yet we do not want to resign ourselves to seeing nature die before our eyes. Because nature is our life. Because nature is our identity.

Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim
Environmental activist, Chad



While most chapters don't talk specifically about capitalism, themes of inequality run through the text.

One memorable chapter by writer Douglas Rushkoff explores how the concerns of rich people amount to building bunkers and fortifying their private wealth.

He explains how, instead of fighting against societal collapse because of climate change, the rich are putting their hope in “lifeboats for the elite”.

“We get tech billionaires launching electric cars into space—as if this symbolises something more than one billionaire's capacity for corporate promotion” said Rushkoff.

Others believe it is simply too late to stop devastating climate change. They say focus must be on preparing for famine, extreme weather and an increasingly volatile world.

“We should be preparing for social collapse” argues academic Jem Bendell. He argues for “deep adaptation” to upcoming climate catastrophe because “any talk of prevention is actually a form of denial of what is really happening”.

Bendell wants governments to start preparing for food rationing, development of an alternative monetary system, migration in-land and “giving up certain types of consumption”.



Arrests are central to the tactics PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN



The building blocks of revolt

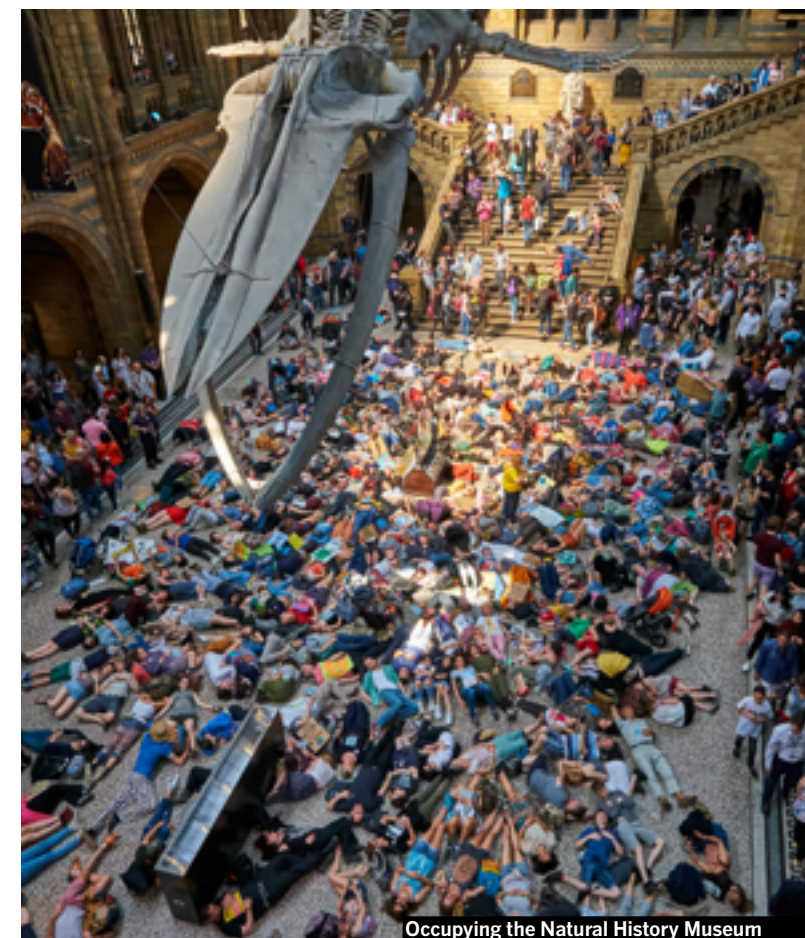


WRITERS, academics and economists of various hues contribute many chapters to the book. Green MP Caroline Lucas and Labour MP Clive Lewis have both written chapters.

Hearing more voices from international communities, striking school students or other groups of workers would have enriched the text and helped to expand the political horizons of XR.

Despite calling for a “movement of movements” very little mention is given to other strands of the climate justice battle.

If you're a millionaire in Malibu, you can rebuild. But communities like Paradise [a town swallowed by a fire in December 2018] are mostly older, retired, working class folks. They can't afford to bounce back. To put this into perspective, the 2017 Thomas Fire in Ventura, California, burned two thousands homes. It was the most destructive in our history. In the last two years it has been surpassed four times.
Firefighter
California



Occupying the Natural History Museum

If the corporations have their way, our fragile web of life will be poisoned and broken, species will be driven to extinction, people will lose all their freedoms to their seed, to their food, to their knowledge and decisions, and all social relations will be ruptured and broken.

Vandava Shiva
Environmental activist, India



exponential increases in rates of consumption, fuelled by carbon.

But what's the solution? Lewis calls for the government to cooperate with the Bank of England and the private sector to “mobilise financial resources to support the most urgent of society's missions”.

But some within XR admit it won't be as simple as that. Climate lawyer Farhana Yamin argues, “The reality is that politicians and powerful elites who benefit from ‘business as usual’ are not going to stop their destructive practices or loosen their grip on the financial and economic levers.”

For everyone who wants a fundamental change in society, XR represents a beacon of hope. It has sparked huge interest in questions about the future of the Earth, and fed into a desperate mood for urgent action.

There's much in This Is Not A Drill that revolutionary socialists won't

agree with—especially on the scale of the movement that's needed, or the role of the working class.

But in mass movements, there is always a huge difference in politics, expectations and experiences.

Every contributor to the book, and every activist in XR, believes that it is necessary to fundamentally change society.

This infectious optimism shines through despite climate horror.

As Hallam said, “The lesson then is that you don't wait until everybody is ready, because you'll be waiting for ever.”

“You just need to go out and do it.”

Our economies are politically addicted to growth because pension funds and the job market have become structurally dependent upon it. What's more, no government wants to lose their place in the G20 family photo.

But if their economy stopped growing while the rest kept going, then they would likely be booted out by the next emerging powerhouse.

Kate Raworth
Economist



An Extinction Rebellion Handbook, £7.99. Available from Bookmarks 1 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3QE. 020 7637 1848 bookmarksbookshop.co.uk

WHAT WE STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to www.swp.org.uk or phone 020 7840 5602 for more information

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } BRANCH MEETINGS

Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

ABERDEEN

The revolutionary ideas of Karl Marx

Mon 24 Jun, 6pm,
The Snug,
Ma Cameron's,
6-8 Little Belmont St,
AB10 1JG

BARNLEY

Imperialism in the Middle East—what's happening in Yemen?

Thu 27 Jun, 7pm,
Room 302—The Civic,
Hanson St,
S70 2HZ

BIRMINGHAM

Rebellions, disobedience and arrests—what is the role of the police?

Wed 26 Jun, 7pm,
Carrs Lane Church
Carrs Lane, B4 7SX

BRADFORD

The Brexit Party and the Tory crisis—how can the left gain?

Thu 27 Jun, 7pm,
Glyde House,
Little Horton Ln,
BD5 0BQ

BRISTOL

Is globalisation finished?

Thu 27 Jun, 7.30pm,
YHA,
14 Narrow Quay,
BS1 4QA

CARDIFF

Tiananmen Square—when China was in revolt

Wed 26 Jun, 7.30pm,
Cathays Community Centre,
Cathays Terrace,
CF24 4HX

CHESTERFIELD

Rosa Luxemburg—100 years since her murder

Thu 27 Jun, 7pm,
Chesterfield Library,
New Beetwell St,
S40 1QN

COLCHESTER

After the Euro elections—Tory crisis and the struggle against racism

Thu 27 Jun, 8pm,
Oyster Room—Hythe
Community Centre,
1 Ventura Drive, CO1 2FG

COVENTRY

The rise of populism

Wed 26 Jun, 7.30pm,
The Golden Cross,
8 Hay Ln, CV1 5RF

DUDLEY

Repression and resistance—where next for the Sudanese revolution?

Wed 26 Jun, 8pm,
The What Centre,
23 Coventry St,
Stourbridge, DY8 1EP

GLASGOW

Mozart—overture to revolution

Thu 27 Jun, 7pm,
Avant Garde,
33-44 King St,
Merchant City, G1 5QT

HARLOW

Angela Davis—women, race and class

Thu 27 Jun, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
1 Church Leys,
CM18 6BX

HUDDERSFIELD

Why the school climate strikes matter

Wed 26 Jun, 6.30pm,
Brian Jackson House,
2 New North Parade,
HD1 5JP

KENT

Rebellions, disobedience and arrests—what is the role of the police?

Thu 27 Jun, 7.30pm,
Nucleus Arts Centre
(Conference Room),
272 High St, Chatham,
ME4 4BP

SOCIALIST WORKER PUBLIC MEETINGS



WHERE NEXT in the fight for LGBT+ liberation?

PICTURE: JULIE SIMMONS

50 years since Stonewall Pride, protest and LGBT+ liberation

BOLTON

Wed 26 Jun, 7pm,
Bolton Socialist Club,
16 Wood St (off
Bradshawgate),
BL1 1DY

EDINBURGH

Wed 26 Jun, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
7 Victoria St,
EH1 2JL

LANCASTER AND MORECAMBE

Why we need a revolution

Thu 27 Jun, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Meeting House Lane,
LA1 1TX

LIVERPOOL

Trump, environmental crisis, and the growth of the far right—what's the socialist alternative?

Thu 27 Jun, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
22 School Ln,
L1 3BT

LEEDS: CITY CENTRE

Thu 27 Jun, 7pm,
The Swarthmore
Education Centre,
2-7 Woodhouse Sq,
LS3 1AD

LONDON: HARINGEY

Wed 26 Jun, 7.30pm,
St John Vianney Church Hall,
386 West Green Rd
(corner Vincent Rd),
N15 3QH

LONDON: HACKNEY

Rebellions, disobedience and arrests—what is the role of the police?

Thu 27 Jun, 7.30pm,
The Round Chapel,
2 Powerscroft Rd (corner
Lower Clapton Rd),
E5 0PU

LONDON: KINGSTON

Music and the politics of resistance

Thu 27 Jun, 6.30pm,
Kingston Quaker Centre,
Fairfield East, KT1 2PT

LONDON: ISLINGTON

Wed 26 Jun, 7pm,
The Old Fire Station,
84 Mayton St,
N7 6QT

NEWCASTLE

Wed 26 Jun, 7pm,
Floor 2 - Commercial
Union House,
39 Pilgrim St,
NE1 6QE

LONDON: NEWHAM

Victor Serge—artist and revolutionary

Wed 26 Jun, 7pm,
Stratford Advice Arcade,
107-109 The Grove,
E15 1HP

LONDON: SOUTH

China in revolt—30 years since Tiananmen Square

Wed 26 Jun, 7pm,
Vida Walsh Centre,
2b Saltoun Rd,
Brixton,
SW2 1EP

LONDON: TOWER HAMLETS

Is human nature a barrier to socialism?

Wed 26 Jun, 7.30pm,
Weavers Community Forum,
10 Shacklewell St,
E2 7EG

LONDON: WALTHAM FOREST

Do we need violence to get real social change?

Wed 26 Jun, 7.30pm,
William Morris
Community Centre,
6-8 Greenleaf Rd,
Walthamstow,
E17 6QQ

LONDON: WEST & NORTH WEST

Is a robot after your job?

Thu 27 Jun, 7.30pm,
Woodlane Community Centre,
78 White City Cl,
Shepherd's Bush,
W12 7DZ

Is Marxism relevant today?

Wed 26 Jun, 7pm,
Central Methodist Hall,
Oldham St,
M1 1JQ

NORWICH

Art and socialism

Wed 26 Jun, 7.30pm,
Vauxhall Centre,
Johnson Place,
NR2 2SA

NOTTINGHAM

Migration and climate change

Wed 26 Jun, 7pm,
International
Community Centre,
61b Mansfield Rd,
NG1 3FN

PORTSMOUTH

Rebellions, disobedience and arrests—what is the role of the police?

Wed 26 Jun, 7.30pm,
Somerstown
Community Centre,
River's St,
PO5 4EZ

SCARBOROUGH

Repression and resistance—where next for the Sudanese revolution?

Wed 26 Jun, 7.30pm,
Tap and Spile,
94 Falsgrave Rd,
YO12 5AZ

SHEFFIELD: CITY CENTRE

Legalise! The case for decriminalising drugs

Thu 27 Jun, 7pm,
Central United
Reformed Church,
60 Norfolk St (near
Crucible Theatre),
S1 2JB

SOUTHAMPTON

Women and Islamophobia

Wed 26 Jun, 7.30pm,
Central Baptist Church Hall,
Devonshire Rd,
SO15 2GY

SWANSEA

How can we build a sustainable socialist society?

Thu 27 Jun, 7.30pm,
Brynmill Community Centre,
St Albans Rd,
SA2 0BP

TELFORD

Socialists, strikes and trade unions—how do we fight back?

Wed 10 Jul, 7.30pm,
Carriages,
The Parade,
Wellington,
TF1 1PY

WIGAN

System change not climate change

Thu 27 Jun, 7pm,
The Brocket Arms,
38 Mesnes Rd,
WN1 2DD

WOLVERHAMPTON AND WALSALL

China in revolt—30 years since Tiananmen Square

Wed 26 Jun, 7.15pm,
Light House,
Suite 16,
Chubb Building,
Fryer St,
WV1 1HT

{ MOVEMENT EVENTS }

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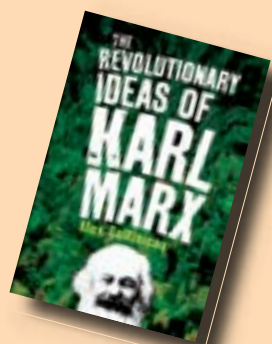
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How system treats refugees with a bureaucratic cruelty

A film about a family that flees to France from the violence of Central African Republic is a condemnation of the asylum system, writes **Charlie Kimber**

MAHAMAT-SALEH HAROUN, one of Africa's most important contemporary film makers, has turned his gaze on the experience of refugees.

His film *A Season in France* tells the story of Abbas who, together with his two children, flees the Central African Republic.

His wife Madeleine has been murdered during the country's civil war.

Arriving in France full of hope, he is confronted by legalistic obstacles, bureaucratic disdain, and a remorseless road towards deportation.

His children, forced into living in makeshift accommodation and eating poor food, sometimes turn their anger on their father.

"A proper parent would have his papers sorted," says one.

Haroun shows us little of the raw violence of Europe's racist laws. We see just the occasional glimpse of the police who harass people on the street or carry out round-ups of those who will be expelled.

Instead the cruelty of the system is communicated through the power of letters that use leaden official prose to condemn a family to be sent back to poverty and the high possibility of death.

In one devastating scene we see the featureless office where asylum claims are decided. The camera tracks the desperate, anxious and exhausted faces of people from many former French colonies.

The system strips Abbas of any dignity or respect.

Philosophy

Haroun and his family would be homeless were it not for his relationship with a French woman, Carole. Etienne, Abbas's philosophy-teacher brother, has also fled the fighting. He is reduced to living in a makeshift hut.

There is a very poignant scene where Abbas and the children celebrate Carole's birthday with presents, dancing and cake. It's a joyous and affectionate moment.

But the adults know that they have received another letter from the authorities—one they dare not open because it will almost certainly see Abbas removed.

Haroun told one interviewer that people waiting for asylum in France are left "living in a kind of no man's land, under the shadow of a death sentence."

Reflecting the reality of refugees' experience, the film ends on horror, not hope. It's a film that brilliantly shows how the state has made cruelty commonplace.

A Season in France is on limited release

EXHIBITION



A SECTION of *Shattered Colour*, 1947

Sweeping Lee Krasner retrospective

LIVING COLOUR

Barbican Centre, London, EC2Y.
Until 1 September

THIS IS an amazing and long-overdue opportunity to see the work of Lee Krasner, a formidable American artist whose importance has often been forgotten.

Krasner was a gutsy, feisty artist who was not afraid to follow her own path. Born in 1908 to a working class orthodox Jewish Russian family in Brooklyn she picked an unconventional path when she decided aged just 14 that she wanted to be an artist.

Living Colour is a major retrospective of nearly 100 pieces from the span of her 50-year career.

Early works include *Little Images*. In a state of "controlled chaos", as she put it, Krasner painted tiny white-lined grids.

Some of these contained geometric symbols, some strangely reminiscent of liquorice allsorts—others a flurry of brightly coloured crescents.

In contrast, Krasner's



Lee Krasner at work in her studio

Prophecy is dominated by looping, raw-pink fleshy forms, resembling tumbling limbs.

She knew that something different was happening on that canvas and it alarmed her.

She told her husband Jackson Pollock to come and look at it. She recounted that "he said do this and that and I said no. That was my last communication with him before he died."

His death that year in a car crash inspired Krasner to complete the painting and her creative confidence was unleashed.

During a spell of severe

insomnia she began working at night using only umber and white, since she hated working with colour under artificial light.

And the first picture that hits you as you enter the exhibition is the 14-foot *Polar Stampede*.

Pulsating

To see it in the flesh is transfixing—a huge pulsating cushion, painted in swooping feathery strokes.

I would go to the exhibition for this painting alone.

From the mid 1960s Krasner allowed colour to burst back into her painting.

She shifted to more hard-edged abstract forms, using reds and her favourite pink fuchsia.

Krasner acknowledged that, in some respects, the lack of attention paid to her own work had been a "blessing".

Free from so much critical pressure, she produced work she felt compelled to make without a coterie of controlling dealers or collectors trying to influence her.

Her freewheeling works are a joy to see.

Mary Brodbin

OPERA

DON PASQUALE

Performed by the Welsh National Opera
Directed by Daisy Evans
On tour until 13 July. For tickets, go to bit.ly/DPasquale

THE STORY hinges on how private property—in this case a kebab van—creates inequality and distorts the relationships between individuals.

Don Pasquale wants to bequeath his wealth to his own, as yet unborn, children.

So he sacks his nephew, Ernesto, knowing this will prevent him being able to marry his love, Norina.

We eventually see Norina



Andrew Shore as Don Pasquale

taking control of her life and outwitting Pasquale, who is redeemed in the end. We also witness the stench of money and greed distorting people and relationships.

The libretto is translated into English by Daisy Evans—and loses none of the humour and gags along the way.

Don Pasquale finds there are more important things in life than money—and marriage for the sake of preserving your inheritance is no basis for a happy life.

Julia Richardson

Event at BOOKMARKS the socialist bookshop

British Communism and the Politics of Race

With author Evan Smith
Thursday 27 June, 6.30pm



1 Bloomsbury Street,
London WC1B 3QE
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FOR more than 100 years Palestinians have endured systematic brutality and humiliation under military occupation.

The violence and abuses meted out under the Israeli military occupation today echo those Palestinians suffered at the hands of the British.

Britain occupied Palestine as part of its empire after the First World War.

From the moment the occupation began in 1919, until the moment it ended in 1948, Britain needed ways to suppress resistance.

Accounts of the brutality of the British occupation often turn to the story of British officer Orde Wingate—with good reason.

During a major Palestinian revolt between 1936 and 1939, Wingate ran “night squads” of British soldiers and Jewish settlers that terrorised Palestinian villages.

They are some of the most shocking examples of the violence of British rule.

They also show how the Zionist settler movement—which aimed to establish the state of Israel on Palestinian land—and the British Empire worked together.

But behind the worst atrocities lay a regime of bullying, humiliation, impoverishment and collective punishment backed up by punitive laws.

That’s the subject of military historian Matthew Hughes’ recent book, *Britain’s Pacification of Palestine*.

It looks at how this machinery of occupation was used to quell the revolt of 1936-1939.

The British fought the Palestinian rebellion, Hughes says, “through the daily grind of low-level punishments”.

This strategy deliberately targeted all Palestinian people—partly because the revolt against British rule had such widespread support.

Revolt

Palestinians had fought the British occupation since it began. But the great revolt that began in 1936 was on a much bigger scale than anything that came before it.

It involved most of Palestinian society in a general strike that ran from April to October, and an insurrection across much of the countryside.

It was a revolt, “from below,” writes Hughes, echoing the words of Thomas Hodgkin, a British official who worked in Palestine at the time.

“The strike is a spontaneous movement which has the support of almost all sections of the Arab people,” Hodgkin reported. “It started as a movement from below, not from above, and it has been kept alive by pressure from below.”

Hughes says the British responded with an “all-encompassing legal system” that



BRITISH FORCES leaving Palestine in 1948

BRITAIN'S LEGACY OF BRUTALITY

Israeli attacks on Palestinians today rightly horrify millions of people. But the Zionist state has learned many of its repressive techniques from Britain, writes **Nick Clark**



Officer Orde Wingate

facilitated widespread and humiliating repression.

This “restrained, detained, and impoverished Palestinians, hanged and killed them, and demolished their homes.

“It banned newspapers, interned people, fined and exiled them, censored their mail and telephone calls, took away livestock and crops, whipped them, imposed curfews and police posts, exacted corvee, and restricted travel.

“It made singing, shouting,



The British deliberately targeted all Palestinian people

and waving flags illegal, along with processing the wrong way down a street, buying a toy children’s gun, or meeting in a cafe.”

Before the revolt had even begun, the British authorities gave their soldiers and police powers to demolish Palestinian homes and to fine entire villages. They’d also made it a crime to “connive” with resistance or to fail to support police.

They were given even more freedom to do what they wanted

as the revolt went on—helping them to dole out collective punishments to entire villages.

British laws explicitly decided that whole villages were responsible for “crimes” committed by Palestinian fighters in their area.

They were designed to justify constant, systematic, mass repression of Palestinians—to “screw them down”.

British soldiers in Galilee “exhausted” Palestinians through a daily grind of fining, searching, mass detention, forced labour, whipping and shooting of running suspects”.

“Most if not all of this was legal, including shooting people after soldiers had shouted a challenge,” says Hughes.

“Searches” of Palestinian villages were little more than excuses to loot and destroy houses, detain Palestinians or beat them into becoming informants.

THESE often resulted in villagers being locked in vast cages for hours or even days on end. Palestinians—captured or not—were used as free labour.

One report from the Leicester Regiment said, “Many sticks were broken over unwilling backs but the road was eventually finished.”

“A Palestinian woman recalled how the British used whips in such searches,” Hughes says. “A police officer used a wooden club with such force on suspects that he ‘thought that the wood would snap under the impact,’ alongside fellow policemen who wielded hammers and tyre levers.”

One officer’s method was to capture two men and then “take one man over to a wall and give him a ‘wee tap on the head’ and fire a shot into the ground and then cut the throat of a cockerel over the man’s face and the other man always talks”.

All it took for a village to be responsible for a crime was for it to be close to where it happened.

Fines were imposed on entire villages for crimes such as not cooperating with security forces, collected by soldiers and enforced with violence and property destruction.

As most of Palestine’s rural, peasant population lived in poverty and with heavy debts anyway, this could ruin them.

When British soldiers went to collect fines from one village, they found it empty. “The inhabitants had left as ‘when last fined they stated they were leaving the country, as they could no longer afford to live in it’”.

But the defining form of punishment, says Hughes, was widespread and systematic house demolition.

Often houses that were demolished after a “crime” had already been singled out—maybe for being the biggest or

nicest—and marked for demolition. On other occasions soldiers might destroy so much of a village that it was effectively wiped out.

“The most spectacular single act of demolition,” says Hughes, “was that of Old Jaffa in June 1936.”

It carved three, vast gashes through the old city which remain there today. “Artisanal craft shops and Israeli gentrification now fill the remains.”

Giving just two days’ notice, the British airdropped leaflets in Arabic onto the city informing residents their homes were about to be destroyed.

Then, using explosives, the army wiped out about 220 buildings, making as many as 6,000 people homeless.

One British officer remembered, “There was the most enormous bang and about 10 percent of Jaffa went up in the air. I said enthusiastically, ‘that will fucking well teach them,’ and was promptly put under arrest by Major Perrott on the charge of using ‘obscene language whilst on active service!’”

Demolition “was a devastatingly effective military and social measure,” writes Hughes. “It struck terror into and impoverished Palestinians’ lives.”

Strategy

This strategy of “pacification”—targeting the mass of Palestinian people—was meant to destroy popular support for the revolt.

Hughes also says that it meant the British relied less on massacres and extreme brutality in Palestine than in other parts of its empire.

He’s at pains to make clear that he doesn’t think this means the British Empire was more benevolent than others.

Only that in Palestine, British rule was cemented through an “attritional” campaign of punishments backed up by repressive laws.

These often “blurred the line” between what security forces could get away with, and encouraged them to commit acts of torture or organise death squads. But Hughes argues this wasn’t “systematic”, or the main way that Britain operated.

Other historians will disagree. But either way, Hughes’ book exposes how the British Empire controlled Palestinians through relentless abuse and humiliation.

It also helps to explain the



A BRITISH police officer checks papers during the occupation of Palestine (top). Crowds during the revolt of 1936-39 (above)



Support for Palestine

Israeli occupation of Palestine today.

Some methods used by the British—collective punishment, house demolitions, a repressive legal system—are used by the Israelis.

Early in the book Hughes describes how one law allowed the British to co-opt Zionist settlers as police officers during the revolt.

The Zionist militias “carried over colonial methods learned from the British to the Israeli state after 1948.

“Israel’s collective punishments and house demolitions of Palestinians convicted of terror offences stem from” laws first imposed by the British.

When Israel carries out atrocities, it’s worth remembering that Palestinian oppression began with the British Empire.

READ MORE

● **Britain’s Pacification of Palestine** by Matthew Hughes

● **Bloody Balfour’s century of oppression in Palestine** by Nick Clark bit.ly/bloodybalfour

● **An empire bathed in blood** by Ken Olende bit.ly/empireblood

● **The Blood Never Dried—A People’s History of the British Empire** by John Newsinger, £13.99

Available at Bookmarks, the socialist bookshop. Phone 020 7637 1848 or go to bookmarksbookshop.co.uk



PFI projects disastrous for safety, argues new book

Stuart Hodgkinson spoke to Alistair Farrow about a public housing scandal that leaves many residents at risk



PART OF the PFI development in Leeds

SOME OF the most shocking aspects of Private Finance Initiatives (PFIs) are laid bare in a new book by human geography academic Stuart Hodgkinson.

Safe as Houses examines how PFI contracts are used in the social housing sector—with disastrous consequences.

One of the most outrageous elements of the privatised housing industry that gave birth to the PFI deals is self-certification.

This means that the private providers are signing off their work as adequate and safe, despite it often being anything but.

“The system of building regulation, self-certification and building control is endemic,” Stuart told Socialist Worker.

“Many people still imagine that the local authority is checking the work being done by its contractors. Yet, while most local authorities do have building control departments, these are often competing for work with the private sector for building control services.

“Building control is required to check construction work to ensure it conforms with regulations. But the amount of actual checking that gets done is, legally, very small.”

Homework

A toxic system of self-governance means property developers and facilities management firms are marking their own homework.

This can mean private contractors produce their own “customer service satisfaction” surveys and hand them over to councils.

It means anyone treated badly—thrown out of their homes and made to live in intolerable conditions—has no way of complaining through official channels.



In the book, Stuart details some of the most shocking cases he came across.

People have been forced into fuel poverty and have suffered ill health because of spiralling bill costs.

Other failures appear at first glance to be more banal—an ignored email, for instance. But these instances mount up to form the “culture of indifference” which led to the Grenfell Tower fire, Stuart argues.

“The context matters. And the context is often years of tenants’ complaints

being ignored.”

Cosy deals are cooked up between the public and private sectors. Contracts are handed out not only for the construction, or redevelopment of buildings, but then also for the provision of services afterwards.

“PFI is an extreme version of the self-regulated, privatised system we’ve got of delivering public services,” argues Stuart.

The solution to the PFI nightmare, according to Stuart, is to end the self-regulatory system, re-invigorate tenants’ organisations, and “gradually ending PFI and outsourcing”.

“Labour’s position is that PFI, in principle, needs to go,” said Stuart.

“John McDonnell has said Labour will look to nationalise Special Purpose Vehicle contracts, although possibly not those which have only a short time left.

“There are many potential pitfalls in abruptly cancelling PFI contracts because of the secretive nature of them.

We simply don’t know all of the complex legal arrangements involved.”

PFIs should be stopped and scrapped with contracts brought back into public hands.

At the heart of any solution to the privatised housing nightmare must be a programme of public investment that puts people’s lives before private greed.

Safe as Houses—private greed, political negligence and housing policy after Grenfell by Stuart Hodgkinson, £11.99. Available from bookmarksbookshop.co.uk

“People are forced to live in poverty and poor health as bills spiral

Fury at Serco threat to Glasgow refugees

by ALISTAIR FARROW

PROTESTERS gathered in Glasgow last Saturday to say no to an attempt to evict asylum seekers and refugees. The threat comes from outsourcing giant Serco.

The company said on Wednesday of last week that it will begin changing locks on the properties the 300 people affected live in.

The first 30 lock-change notices—which give people 21 days warning of eviction—are set to be issued this week.

After this, up to 30 people a week will be made homeless.

Speakers on Saturday's protest, organised by Stand Up To Racism Scotland, included chief executive of the Scottish Refugee Council Sabir Zazai and Glasgow MPs Paul Sweeney and Chris Stephens.

Scottish National Party MP Stephens said, "We will not accept Serco evictions of the most vulnerable people in society."

He added it was clear Serco has been sending out intimidating letters for



PROTESTING IN Glasgow last Saturday against Serco evictions

PICTURE: @JUSTCAROL12 ON TWITTER

weeks. Serco tried a similar move last year, but mass protests beat it back.

The Home Office decided not to renew the firm's contract to house the people affected. From September the contract will be taken over by

the Mears housing company.

Rather than liaise with the new provider to transfer the management of the accommodation, for Serco the logical decision was to kick people onto the streets.

The firm made £150,000

available to homeless charities in Glasgow to rehouse people in the interim. But this is not enough, and charities were not made aware in advance.

Serco boss Rupert Soames—grandson of Winston Churchill and brother of

Tory MP Nicholas Soames—had a total pay package of £2.217 million in 2016. Robina Qureshi, director of the Positive Action in Housing migrant solidarity organisation, said, "We are shocked by the latest move by Serco."

"Rupert Soames and Serco agreed publicly that they would not take any immediate action to evict after a Court of Session judgement last month, and would consult with 'key partners'."

"Neither of these happened. In fact since April 2019, asylum seekers have come into our office in Glasgow with letters telling them to leave their accommodation immediately."

Intimidated

"Refugees and asylum seekers have been intimidated into leaving their accommodation by Serco sending out 'eviction letters'."

Two of those affected mounted a legal challenge against the evictions. They argued that the evictions were illegal without a court order.

In April a judge dismissed this case. Now an appeal against this decision has been mounted.

Charities say no evictions should take place until the appeal is decided on 1 July.

It is a disgrace that people can be evicted because a private firm loses a contract with the government.

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Boris Johnson—most vicious of Tory clowns

The heir apparent of the Tory party has a carefully constructed image as the posho you love to hate. **Simon Basketter** explains why you should just hate

THE NEXT person to stand in Downing Street explaining the latest Brexit crisis will probably be Alexander Boris de Pfeffel Johnson.

That is a depressing snapshot of what's not funny about the implosion of the Tories.

While pulling tropes out the Donald Trump playbook of bigotry, at heart Johnson is a Tory who is in politics for his personal gain and to look after the interests of his posh mates.

His racism is of the new alt right, but also of empire—no dog whistle will remain unblown if it helps him out.

Bullying and brutality aren't quaint just because the boot kicking the poor is made of good quality leather and the owner shouts, "What Ho!"

It is incompetent to buy water cannons that don't work and can't be used, as Johnson did as London Mayor. It is a mark of his repressive and reactionary worldview that they were bought at all.

Right wing zealots and journalists get all hot and bothered over his vaudeville comedy act. Only the rich will be laughing when Johnson gets the job.

Massive

The only policy he has announced in his campaign so far is a massive tax cut for around three million higher earners.

He'll raise the 40p tax threshold from £50,000 to £80,000. Coincidentally, those who will benefit include swathes of those who get votes in the leadership election—Tory party members and MPs.

He announced the move in a column for the Daily Telegraph newspaper, for which he is paid



JOHNSON LIKES to play the bumbling oaf, but he's as nasty a Tory as you're likely to find

£5,288 a week. He'd save £1,058 in income tax just on his own column that announced the cut.

As for what kind of domestic policies he'll pursue, Johnson recently said police spending on child sex abuse investigations was money "spaffed up a wall".

That let us know that abuse victims, like asylum seekers, immigrants, the disabled, homeless and welfare claimants, are just a drain on the rich man's taxes.

He plays the anti-elite card, yet was spotted with champagne flute in hand at Jacob Rees-Mogg's £6 million

townhouse hours after defeating his own party in a parliamentary vote.

Last week he defended likening Muslim women in burkas to bank robbers. He has previously called Africans "piccaninnies" with "water melon smiles".

Beaten

He's attacked the idea of climate change and the minimum wage, and once promised to give convicted fraudsters the address of a journalist so he could be beaten up.

He called Labour's repeal of the anti-LGBT+ Section 28 "appalling".

Whether it is taking business friends' jets to go to lobbying meetings with the bigots of the DUP or wasting millions on vanity projects such as the garden bridge, nothing dents Johnson's sense of entitlement.

He has the backing of Trump and the Murdoch press.

Finally, according to Johnson, poor people—or as he described them in 2013, the "bottom cornflakes"—are poor because they are stupid.

He says that "some measure of inequality is essential" because it's great for the economy.

Sometimes clowns are scary.

Sordid story behind bigot's rise through the ranks

AFTER TOUGH early years of privilege Johnson ended up at Eton.

He "embraced wholeheartedly" the weird enforced behaviours of those bred to rule.

At Oxford he became president of the union after transforming his political opinions twice to get elected.

He was an enthusiastic member of the odious restaurant-trashing Bullingdon club. He still greets the former members of his well dressed yobbo club by shouting, "Buller,

buller, buller!" at every opportunity.

After college Johnson lasted a week in a merchant bank before falling back on what passes for journalism among people of his class. "Family connections"

landed Johnson his first job in journalism—writing for the Times newspaper in 1987. He was sacked after inventing a quote from his own godfather.

The fraudster Conrad Black then sent Johnson to Brussels to mock the

European Union (EU) for the Telegraph. He made up stories—such as that EU president Jacques Delors was going to have himself declared Emperor. Johnson said his job was to "create a new reality".

His journalism at this point was of a type—sexist. So for instance a party conference meant, "Time and again the 'Tottymeter' has gone off as a young woman delegate mounts the rostrum." Sexism he is sure of, Brexit less so. Prior to announcing where

he stood on Brexit during the referendum he had two newspaper columns written—one against it, the other for it.

He only sided with Leave after calculating it was best for his leadership credentials.

While foreign secretary he made a joke about "dead bodies" in Libya.

And after the Grenfell Tower blaze, footage surfaced of him as mayor telling a politician who challenged the wisdom of his hundreds of millions of fire service cuts to "get stuffed".



Bully for Boris—sitting on the right with his fellow rich thugs



THE THINGS SAID ABOUT JOHNSON

'I think he's got what it takes. He'd make a great Prime Minister'

Donald Trump gives Johnson the presidential seal of approval

'A man who waits to see which way the crowd is running, then dashes in front and says 'follow me'

Tory Michael Heseltine gives his opinion of Boris as the great pretender

'It's the casual dishonesty, the cruelty, the betrayal and, beneath the betrayal, the emptiness of real ambition'

Tory MP Matthew Paris is, for some reason, perplexed by Johnson's lack of integrity



THE THINGS JOHNSON SAYS

'Africa is a mess, but we can't blame colonialism. The best fate for Africa would be if the old colonial powers, or their citizens, scrambled once again in her direction; on the understanding that this time they will not be asked to feel guilty.'

Johnson writes in the right wing rag The Spectator in 2002

Johnson said Liverpool was 'wallowing' in 'victim status' after the Hillsborough disaster

Again in The Spectator magazine in 2004

IN BRIEF

Guards fight back on South Western

STRIKES HIT South Western Railway this week as workers began the next phase of action against Driver Only Operation services.

RMT union members argue that running trains without a guard puts passengers and workers at risk.

The union previously suspended action as train bosses agreed in principle to a second safety-trained member of staff on board.

But the company has reneged on that so a five-day strike began on Tuesday.

Tell Khan he can't back Tube cuts

RMT UNION members are taking their battle against the "transformation" of Tube services directly to London mayor Sadiq Khan.

The "no Tory cuts under a Labour mayor" demonstration will expose the programme of privatisation and job cuts tabled by Tube bosses.

The union is set to ballot its 10,000 members for action over the proposals. ●Demonstrate—Thu 20 June, 10am, City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London SE1 2AA

South Yorks bus strikes scheduled

SOME 900 bus drivers in South Yorkshire are getting ready to strike over pay. Unite union members employed by First South Yorkshire are set to stage 24-hour strikes on 29 June and 1 July.

They voted by 69 percent for action over an "insulting" offer of a one-year pay freeze.

Services in Doncaster, Sheffield, Rotherham and parts of the Derbyshire Dales are set to be affected.

Hackney drivers fight for split shift pay

PASSENGER ESCORTS and drivers who help disabled children get to school walked out this week over pay.

Some 38 Unite union members in Hackney, east London, planned six 24-hour walkouts, starting on Tuesday and Thursday this week.

The workers are fighting for a £50 a week split shift payment, which Unite said is part of the national pay grading scheme for their role.

Aberdeen and Glasgow air strikes

FURTHER ACTION at Aberdeen and Glasgow airports is set to take off.

Unite union members are fighting plans by AGS Airports to attack their pensions.

Glasgow workers struck last week and planned action again on Friday this week and on 24, 26, 28 and 30 June.

Aberdeen workers plan walkouts on Thursday and Friday of next week.

ORGREAVE JUSTICE



AROUND 500 people marched in Sheffield last Saturday to demand justice over the Battle of Orgreave in the 1984-5 miners' strike. Police attacked miners then framed them PICTURE: NEIL TERRY

CIVIL SERVICE

Outsourcing battles hit civil service bosses

by NICK CLARK

CATERING AND cleaning workers at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) in London began a five-day strike on Monday over pay.

They were joined from Tuesday to Thursday by porters and security staff.

Contractors Aramark and ISS that run security, catering, cleaning and support services at BEIS, have refused to raise wages to the £10.55 an hour London Living Wage rate. Strikers said their £9.01 an hour pay isn't enough to live on.

PCS union general secretary Mark Serwotka said, "Our union will continue to fight tooth and nail for our members for as long as it takes."

Wage

The union has called for all contracted workers at government departments to be brought back in-house and to be paid a civil service wage.

The PCS announced on Monday that it is balloting outsourced cleaners at tax offices on Merseyside for a strike over pay and conditions.

Last week striking outsourced workers at the



Picketing on Tuesday

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

Foreign and Commonwealth Office jeered Tory leadership candidate Jeremy Hunt as he passed their picket line.

Carrying placards that read, "Shame on the Foreign Secretary," they demanded Hunt stop a situation that has seen workers set up a food bank in his own department.

Their five-day strike came after a change in pay dates left them without wages for six weeks.

The PCS members have battled against outsourcer Interserve over issues including pay and redundancies since it took over in December.

The most recent attack is a change in pay dates that meant workers got no pay between

28 April and Tuesday this week.

Striker Joseph said, "Most of us have had to pay two rents with one wage."

Strikers are also demanding union recognition.

Since Interserve took over, some workers have been transferred to contracts with worse terms for sick pay.

And cleaners—who have to rely on overtime to get by—only get holiday entitlement for their contracted hours.

One striker told Socialist Worker "We're not budging at all until we get it resolved."

●Support the ISS and Aramark strikers. Send messages of support to leeds@pcs.org.uk

●Longer online at bit.ly/ShameOnHunt

RETAIL

Sainsbury's depot strike plan

ALMOST 400 workers at the Sainsbury's distribution depot in Waltham Point, north London, are set to strike for 24 hours from 6am on Thursday 27 June.

The Usdaw union members voted by 73 percent in favour of industrial action.

Turnout in the ballot was 67 percent.

The warehouse, sited near

the M25, serves stores across London.

Udaw divisional officer Nigel Scully said, "Udaw members at the site are unhappy with proposed changes to the attendance policy."

"They have been left with no choice but to move to action to get an improved offer from the business."

HEALTH

NHS fight in Birmingham

AROUND 150 workers at Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust were set to strike for three days next week.

The porters, housekeepers, domestic assistants and maintenance staff, members of the Unison and Unite unions, will be out from Monday to Wednesday.

They are fighting plans to move them from direct NHS employment to working for Summerhill Services Limited on 1 July.

Unite regional officer Frank Keogh said, "This will strip members of their status as NHS employees and is a part of the backdoor privatisation of the health service."

■THE UNISON union last week won an important legal judgment affecting NHS workers.

It means those staff who do overtime on a regular basis or frequently work beyond their normal shifts should have these extra hours taken into account when their holiday pay is calculated.

Previously, NHS workers who regularly did extra hours saw their pay fall when they took a holiday.

The ruling could benefit tens of thousands of NHS staff who are employed under the Agenda for Change payment system.

●For details go to bit.ly/NHSholsPay

ST GEORGE'S TOOTING

'Clean bog then serve grub'

OVER 50 people joined a protest outside St George's Hospital in Tooting, south London, last Friday.

It was called by the GMB union over actions by outsourcing giant Mitie.

Mitie has just been awarded a ten-year extension to its contract with the NHS Trust, worth £150 million.

One of its first acts was to launch an attack on workers' conditions, accompanied by a series of sham "consultation" meetings.

At one of these, the GMB reported that management blocked the exit to try to force workers to fill in "preferences for job roles in the revised structure". But they refused.

Mitie employs over 600 people working in catering, cleaning and waste management at the hospital.

It intends to make at least 40 of them redundant.

Workers are also angry about changes to rosters and job roles, increased workload, cuts to hours and breaks and the sick pay scheme.

The union has promised an escalating campaign of action.

Placards for the protest point out how Mitie's plans to force workers to multitask could endanger patients' health.

"After I clean the bog, I serve your grub," they said. Ben Windsor

MUSEUMS

WORKERS AT several of Britain's top science museums are to be balloted for strikes over pay.

Prospect union members who work at London's Science Museum and the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester are among those voting.

The union said the vote follows the offer of a pay rise of just 1.5 percent.

Workers at Bradford's National Science and Media Museum, the National Railway Museum in York and the National Collections Centre in Wroughton, Wiltshire, will also vote soon.

CLIMATE ACTION

Extinction Rebellion launches actions across Britain

THE OPENING night of the Royal Opera House (ROH) Big Screen season was overshadowed on Tuesday of last week by anger against its sponsor—oil giant BP.

As the pre-event warm-up began, over 100 protesters emerged out of the audience in London's Trafalgar Square with banners, chanting, "Drop BP" and, "climate justice".

The protest, organised by Extinction Rebellion, was one of several recently to target BP's strategy of using sponsorship of the arts to clean

up its filthy image. "BP, we haven't forgotten the Gulf of Mexico," read one banner, in reference to the Deepwater Horizon disaster.

As the ROH began its main event, screening the Romeo and Juliet ballet live, XR rebels staged an alternative "Petroleo and Fueliet" tragedy.

Dave Sewell

■REBELS IN Lewisham blocked the main roads in the south east London borough on Friday of last week in protest at local air pollution. Protesters

stopped traffic on three central arteries as part of the "Let Lewisham Breathe" campaign.

Extinction Rebellion member Lorna Greenwood said, "Lewisham suffers badly with air pollution and it's something that really unites people."

"It doesn't matter what job you do or how old you are, people have to breathe the same air."

■EXTINCTION Rebellion activists joined school strikers to perform a stunt against

airport expansion in Bristol last week. Rebels created a huge "extinction symbol" logo with their bodies on the South Downs, after sharing a picnic.

■ACTIVISTS IN York are preparing for a "demand a future" event which will thrash out ideas on how to achieve a zero carbon society.

Extinction Rebellion (XR) members planned a citizens' assembly on Friday of this week to decide on proposals that are set to be presented to York council.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Debating how best to resist the Tories

by SARAH BATES in Liverpool

HUNDREDS OF delegates spent two days thrashing out how to fight austerity at the Unison union local government conference this week.

Anger at the Tory programme of cuts, privatisation and attacks was palpable.

Margaret Gallacher from south Lanarkshire blasted the Tories.

"Whichever clown runs their evil circus their policies show that more is yet to come," she said.

Unison members debated climate change, the crisis in social care, schools funding and house building.

Many spoke about how public sector workers are struggling with increasing workloads, skeleton staffing levels and deteriorating services.

Delegate James Robinson argued, "It's not enough to deal with cuts on a case-by-case basis."

"It's much better to deal with these things collectively and industrially."

Conference voted to fight zero hours contracts and the undermining of terms and conditions.

Delegate Liz Wheatley said, "Zero hours contracts



THE CONFERENCE floor on Monday

PICTURE: UNISON BEXLEY BRANCH

are an attack on all of us—they're more likely to be used when the services have been privatised."

Members voted unanimously to organise against Tory legislation to cap retirement payments for public sector workers.

Mandy Buckley, a senior steward for the victorious Birmingham home care workers, said their action changed workers.

"Campaigning makes a difference," she said.

"I was the only steward there when everyone left on voluntary redundancy. Now I've got ten stewards."

"Our campaigners are going to be the leaders for the future—and we need more leaders."

Unison's national delegate conference was set to start as Socialist Worker went to press.

BIN SERVICES in Newham, east London, look set to grind to a halt as workers get ready to stage a 12-day strike.

Some 45 Unite union members are fighting a pay grading that they say could cost them over £20,000 in a 12-year period.

Workers voted by 88 percent for the strike, which was due to start on Monday of next week.

EDUCATION



Campaigners in Greenwich last week

PICTURE: MIRIAM SCHARF

More action at John Roan to say no to academisation

by MIRIAM SCHARF

GREENWICH council last week unanimously decided to hand over The John Roan School to a United Learning Trust (ULT) Multi-Academy Trust.

John Roan workers, students, parents, anti-academy campaigners and others lobbied the council as the decision was taken.

Protesters' fury forced council leader Danny Thorpe to suspend the meeting. Activists then discussed their concerns.

Many fear that vulnerable children would not be cared for under a ULT regime.

Megan, a student, spoke of the dangers of older, more

experienced staff leaving if academisation goes ahead.

Teacher Izzy told the council, "You are not obeying Labour Party policy." He added, "It's not your job to do the Tories' dirty work."

The councillors returned to the chamber on the agreement they would answer questions.

But with no debate they agreed the academy plan.

Labour Party member Kevin said, "These people care about their positions rather than principles."

But NEU union members have voted to continue the fight with six days of strikes starting on Tuesday of next week. They invite everyone opposed to academisation to join their picket lines.

SUSSEX

Strikes at Sussex schools

WORKERS AT Peacehaven Community School in Sussex were set to strike for two days from Wednesday of this week.

Workers are fighting a plan by East Sussex County Council to transfer the school to the Swale Academies Trust.

Further walkouts by the NEU union members are planned for 26 and 27 June, as well as 2, 3 and 4 July.

NEU UNION members at Waltham Holy Cross primary school in Essex were set to strike on Thursday of this week.

The action is over a plan to turn the school into an academy run by the NET Academies trust.

Workers also plan a three-day strike from Tuesday of next week. ●Send messages of support to whxpsneu@gmail.com

PENSIONERS

Protests planned to stop cuts to free TV licences

THIS YEAR'S Pensioners' Parliament in Blackpool was rocked by news that the BBC is to end free TV licences for over 75s unless they qualify for pension credit.

It led to many lively debates about how to fight this cruel cut.

The National Pensioners Convention, which organises the Parliament, took a coachload of delegates to protest outside BBC MediaCity in Salford on Thursday of last week.

That action was set to be followed up with protests outside BBC offices around the country at 12 noon on Friday 21 June.

Delegates to the parliament said that

pensioner groups will try to link up with student strikes and marches over climate change on the same day.

Many contributions emphasised that if free licences are lost, it will encourage attacks on the winter fuel allowance and free travel passes.

The parliament supported a petition calling for bus and train services to be brought back into public ownership, launched by activists in Barnsley.

There was strong support for anti-racist messages. Zita Holbourne spoke about the Windrush scandal at the opening plenary. **Mary Brodwin, Fran Postlethwaite and George Arthur**

COLLEGES



Bradford College workers on strike last November

PICTURE: NEIL TERRY

The battle is on in Bradford

WORKERS AT Bradford College were ending a ballot for strikes as Socialist Worker went to press.

UCU union members there are fighting plans to slash 132 jobs.

Bradford College UCU rep Elaine White told the union's annual conference that the threat to jobs was "very stressful and awful".

But she said the union had a "strong branch" at the college that was determined to fight.

UCU members at Bradford College are also balloting for strikes over pay, following a series of walkouts, as part of a national campaign by the union.

Workers at Bradford only had one 1 percent pay rise in the last 11 years.

SCHOOLS

Vote to boycott Sats tests

SCHOOL WORKERS are fighting for a big yes vote and turnout in an indicative ballot to boycott Sats tests.

The ballot, by NEU union members, could lead to a formal ballot and a boycott of the tests in primary schools later this year.

The tests cause stress for children, and are used to rank schools and teachers against each other.

In Cambridge, parents held a stall against Sats in the city centre last weekend.

They gave out letters to other parents to give to teachers and urge them to

vote for the boycott.

Building the ballot is helping to recruit new reps in some schools.

The ballot ends on 2 July.

WORKERS AT the Scottish Qualifications Authority are to stage three one-day strikes, including on exam results day.

The Unite union has confirmed walkouts on Wednesday of this week and on 22 July.

It said workers were left in unsuitable roles and a redundancies agreement was breached.



MASS PROTESTS in Hong Kong have forced the government to retreat

PICTURE: PA

EYEWITNESS TO THE HONG KONG REVOLT

Revolutionary socialist **Lam Chi Leung** reports from the protests sweeping the country —and says they show the politicisation and potential power of ordinary people

RECORD PROTESTS saw around two million people take to the streets of Hong Kong last Sunday.

The government had the day before suspended a planned bill that would have allowed extraditions to mainland China after huge demonstrations.

But protests are continuing to demand the bill is withdrawn and that leader Carrie Lam resigns.

On the morning of 12 June some 40,000 Hong Kong citizens occupied the streets near the Legislative Council and the government headquarters.

Most protesters were aged between 18 and 24 years old.

Previously, on Sunday 9 June, an astonishing 1.03 million citizens joined the “No China extraction” mass demonstration. That was the biggest demonstration since Hong Kong’s return to China

in 1997. On average, one in seven Hong Kong people joined the demonstration!

The official mainland China media said that demonstrations had been surreptitiously engineered by Western powers. That is absolute nonsense.

The 12 June protest forced the delay of the Second Reading of the draft amendment to the Fugitive Offenders and Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Legislation Bill—the extradition bill.

Extradition

Currently Hong Kong is allowed to sign long-term fugitive extradition arrangement with all regions in the world except China.

Hong Kong’s government wants to amend this bill so that the mainland authorities can extract suspects from Hong Kong. The amendment

would severely reduce Hong Kong’s autonomy. Due to the authoritarian regime of one-party rule in China, people lack protection from the law.

This would affect especially those who criticise the Chinese government and leadership openly, and those who organise the remembrance of the 1989 Tiananmen Incident every year. It would also hit Hong Kong citizens who have helped Chinese democratic activists to escape.

All of these citizens would be in serious danger.

Activists who have provided practical assistance to China’s labour, human rights, and social movement NGOs could also be extracted by the China government under the pretext of “endangering national security”.

The amendment would make Hong Kong citizens live in fear of “the consequence”

of criticising the system and policies.

Police responded to the protests with violence. They not only employed tear gas and pepper spray but also fired bean bag shot and rubber bullets without warning.

This resulted in 79 injuries, two of them very serious.

Both the Commissioner of Police and Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam described the protest as a “riot”.

The protests against the Extradition Bill took place five years after the Umbrella Movement.

The 81-day-long roads occupation for democratic elections in September 2014 ended in failure. This time, the protests have revived the morale of the masses.

People called for a workers’ and students’ strike last week. The Hong Kong Professional Teachers’ Union

and the Hong Kong Social Workers’ General Union showed support for it.

In addition, some young people established a picket line in the commercial district. Some suggested political strikes and this led to discussions on the internet. All these signs show that this movement has advanced in political consciousness compared to the Umbrella Movement.

It is not easy to mobilise a powerful strike in a short time. The socialist left of Hong Kong can push the discussions about political strikes toward a strategic conclusion that we need to establish mass self-organisation.

It can also explain why the struggle for civil liberty is inseparable to the struggle for political democracy and economic equality.

Lam Chi Leung is a revolutionary socialist based in Hong Kong

“**People called for a workers’ and students’ strike last week**”